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SUBJECT Political Information: Dissidence in Chinese Communist Party -- Differences of Opinion between MAO Tse-tung and CHANG Wen-t'ien

INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT

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Note: It has been previously reported that CHANG Wen-t'ien, a member of the Central Committee and a member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party, belongs to the International Clique of the party which also includes CH'EN Shao-yu, WANG Chia-se and LI Li-san).

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1. The recent split in Chinese Communist ranks in North China between MAO Tse-tung and CHANG Wen-t'ien (張聞天) has been maturing since the Japanese surrender in 1945. CHANG's able subordinate is LI Li-san whose wife is now a teacher in Yuan Tung University (遠東大學); she has many influential friends in Moscow and is known for her lectures on Communism.
2. CHANG Wen-t'ien specializes in undercover activities; propaganda and intelligence work. Recruiting followers and obtaining financial support for the Chinese Communist Party in North China has been largely the result of CHANG's efforts. He believes in using political and educational means in bringing peace and Communism to China and opposes MAO in the use of military force; CHANG, however, believes that the party must maintain an armed military force. CHANG has been considerably instrumental in the recent student and labor strikes throughout China. MAO and CHANG have agreed to wait for an unstated time to see which man's policy is the better for the party in China.
3. The first open split between the two men took place at a meeting of some members of the Central Committee in March 1947 when MAO set forth a new plan of military attack; LI Li-san and CHANG Wen-t'ien walked out on the meeting. The second rift occurred when a Communist guerrilla unit called the New Army (新編新軍) left MAO's Central Headquarters in Hou Hsing Hui (unlocated) on the west border of Shansi and came to CHANG's headquarters in southeast Shansi. This army is about 10,000 strong. Many of CHANG's followers speak of themselves as the New Group and of MAO and his followers as the Old Group.
4. CHANG Wen-t'ien has considerable influence in the Democratic League as a whole and in the Democratic National Reconstruction Association, the San Min Chu I Comrades Association, and the Democratic Promotion Association. Under CHANG's leadership, his followers have formed a People's Thought Club which specializes in planting agents in schools and universities and other political groups to foment agitation and to obtain information. There is a headquarters in Hongkong and one in Canton. The Hongkong group is controlled by HU Wei (胡偉), assisted by a woman named HSU (許); their headquarters is Hein T'ien Street #26, Yaumatei District, Kowloon. The Canton group is controlled by Lai Kuo-fei (賴國飛); the headquarters is at Ya Hu T'ung, Te Cheng North Road, Canton.

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